

Southern California dx club

February 2003



SCDXC HONORS THESE HEROS

STS-107 Flight:
January 16-February 1, 2003

- Commander
Rick D. Husband
- Pilot
William C. McCool
- Payload Specialist
Michael P. Anderson
- Mission Specialist
Kalpana Chawla, KD5ESI
- Mission Specialist
David M. Brown, KC5ZTC
- Mission Specialist
Laurel B. Clark, KC5ZSU
- Payload Specialist
Ilan Ramon, Israel



Soap Box— Words from our President



I want to thank everyone for allowing me this opportunity to serve the SCDXC in the role of President for the coming year. I think our club is made up of some of

the finest DX'ers and people that I have ever known, and it truly is a thrill to be able to serve you in this capacity. This is a great honor for me, with big shoes to fill as I follow Skip – KJ6Y and the leadership he has offered us during the past year. I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to Skip – KJ6Y for doing such a great job as President, and I hope I can serve you as well as he did!

Also, I am excited about the opportunity to work with our slate of board members for 2003. We have a great group of folks that make up this year's board, and I am looking forward to another great year for the club. As you probably have noticed, Larry – K6YUI and Harv – K6EXO have flip-flopped board responsibilities this year. Larry will take over as Membership Chairman, a role that EXO has served in for many years. I am delighted to still have Harv's wisdom and experience as a Board Director, and Harv has agreed to continue to serve as Editor for the Club Newsletter. Kudos to Harv, as his efforts

provides us with a content rich, fun to read newsletter each month. Also, it is great to have a brand new addition to the board in the role of Treasurer - Paul – N6AV! I am sure Paul will bring a great perspective to the group, and I am looking forward to working with Paul as well.

Larry – K6YUI, our new Membership Chairman, has informed me there are still a few who haven't paid their 2003 dues. Please send your dues to Paul, N6AV, to make sure you'll be on the new roster.

Cathy – K6VC, our new VP, is looking for programs. Let her know if you have seen or heard of anything that might be interesting for the club. Better yet, let her know when and she can schedule you in to talk about something.

By the time this newsletter hits your email box, we will have had the CQ WW 160 Meter CW contest. This contest is on Friday, January 24 – Sunday, January 26. I am looking for good conditions, as it would be great to pick up some new ones on the Top Band over the contest weekend. Coming up on the weekend of February 8 – 9 is CQ WW RTTY WPX contest, another great place to pick up RTTY band fillers, and later in February is the ARRL International DX Contest, yet another great weekend to seek out some new band fillers, while playing around in the contest. If you haven't given contesting a try in a while, use these week-

ends to have a little fun, give out some points, and pick up a couple of new ones here and there!

I hope to see everyone at the February meeting. It will be on Thursday, February 13. Remember guys, the meeting is one day before Valentine's Day this year, so be sure to plan to take the spouse out for a nice dinner on that Friday.

73 for now de Herb / KG6OK – kg6ok@pacbell.net

E-Mail Addresses

Reminder — if you change your email address please inform the club membership chairman.

Get WELL Art!

As some of you already know Art, W6EA, was hospitalized a few weeks ago and has been diagnosed with a blood disease.

AWARDS

Nominations for the SCDXC Dixer of the Year and the Clipper-ton Award must be sent to the board NOW! These awards will be presented at the DX Convention in Visalia in March.

Check out the requirements on the club webpage. You may submit your nomination using email.

Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. on February 13, 2003 at Sid Rosenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot.

Please do not park in the school lot.



The January 2003 Meeting:

Skip, KJ6Y, performed his final duties as President by holding elections at the January meeting. If you were not there, you better check and see if you're listed as a board member. The new board was unanimously elected and the meeting quickly moved on to the presentations.

Our Reporter, N6DHZ

Dave Bell, W6AQ, previewed a new short video that will soon be available for presentation to non-amateur groups such as city councils, planning commissions and neighbors etc. about the role of Amateur Radio in disaster communications. The video was very informative and should be a great public relations tool. I will post more on the video when it becomes available.

The program consisted of a video of the ZL8RI DXpedition to Raoul Island by The Kermadec DX Association in 1996. This was a great visual on this remote DX location.

It was nice to see Jim, N6KZ, along with several of the high desert contingent. It was also nice to see several others who had been missing for awhile including Charlie, W6KK, and Arnie, N6HC,

The raffle had another great batch of prizes. The grand prize, won by the new President, Herb, KG6OK, was a brand new SWR analyzer from Kuranishi Instruments. The BR200 SWR Analyzer Available from www.hamstore.com is an all-new product that looks to be a high quality SWR Analyzer for the discriminating amateur. Ernie, N6HY, picked up a new handheld and for those keeping track "Lucky" (aka Cathy, K6VC) won a cool coffee mug.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the February meeting.

ARRL Division Update

The 2003 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention website is "on the air". Check it out and download a registration form at: <http://www.hamcon.org> See you in Long Beach in September 2003!

Voice of the Veep



Cathy, our new V. P.

Welcome to a new year. We are planning some exciting programs, social events, and of course we have the convention in Visalia sponsored by NCDXC, May 2 – 4th. I want to thank everyone and will do my best to bring to you some great or at best good programs to each meeting. I would also like your inputs on what you feel would be a program that you would come and see at the meetings. Remember also, that dues are due and time is running short, so please send in your checks to your new treasurer, Paul N6AV. Larry K6YUI will be sending you out reminders through e-mail, so if you have changed your e-mail addresses, please let Larry know as well as Harv K6EXO, who does the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting, February 13th; we have a special raffle for the YL in your life, so bring her along. We will also have a speaker and of course our raffle drawing, which I believe you will like.

73 and 88s
Cathy K6VC



Our New Officers

We are pleased to announce the election of the following members who will serve as officers in the Southern California DX Club (SCDXC) for 2003:

President Herb Rosenberg, KG6OK, kg6ok@scdxc.org
 Vice President Cathy Gardenias, K6VC, k6vc@scdxc.org
 Secretary Jim Shryne, N6DHZ, n6dhz@scdxc.org
 Treasurer Paul Lawrence, N6AV, n6av@scdxc.org
 Membership Larry Mallek, K6YUI, k6yui@scdxc.org
 Director Charlotte Iseda, KB6FXS, kb6fxs@scdxc.org
 Director Harvey Shore, K6EXO, k6exo@scdxc.org
 Ex Officio Skip Bolnick, KJ6Y, kj6y@scdxc.org

The official mailing address for all SCDXC correspondences during 2003 will be:

Southern California DX Club (SCDXC)
 Attn: James Shryne, N6DHZ, Secretary
 10301 Maybrook Ave.
 Whittier, CA 90603-2620
 Email: n6dhz@scdxc.org



May 2, 3 & 4, 2003

*Holiday Inn Plaza Park
 9000 W. Airport Drive
 Visalia, CA 93277*

Check out the web page at www.ncdx.org for convention information.

Ham Puzzle

The answer to last months mathematical brain twister is:

After the first second, the feeder has traveled 1 foot while the long wire is then 10 feet long. The fraction of antenna length is $1/10^{\text{th}}$.

In the next second this fraction is $1/20^{\text{th}}, \dots$ etc. After the N^{th} second the feeder reaches the antenna head end, so these fractions must sum to one. The series yields approximately $\ln(N)+1/2$. $\ln(N)$ is the natural log-not the log to the base 10.

Doing the math:

(a) $\ln(N)+\frac{1}{2} = 10$ or $N=13360$ seconds (3.71 hrs).

(b) Antenna length is 13360×10 feet or 25.3 miles.

(c) corresponding half wave frequency is: $300,000 \text{ km per sec} / 2 \times 40.72 \text{ km} = 3.68 \text{ KHz}$.

If no space DX;, maybe V.H.H. will work a submarine; they use these frequencies.



By Milt, W6RJO

"Common Knowledge" about ham antennas asserts that, "THE HIGHER THE BETTER—especially for DX". V.H. Ham decides to test this by putting up a half dozen 3 element beams, each on towers of various heights. Since he has a certain panache and high profile in the ham world of Southern California, some beams and towers were loaned to him by manufacturers for promotional reasons. Living in a semi-urban area with plenty of space, he puts up beams at 30, 60, 90, 120, 150 and 200 feet. He also has an aeronautical mobile ham friend who contrived to put one of the beams on his plane at 6000 feet. He finds that as the antenna height is increased, except for 30—60 feet (20 meters), the differences in directivity/gain becomes less and less. For example, the difference between antennas at 200 and 6000 feet are hardly noticeable. So, is higher better? How is this explained?

WANTED

The SCDXC Newsletter is a "hungry animal" and needs to be fed with your articles and photos. Send stuff to the editor at k6exo@scdxc.org and be a published author. Remember, the quality on interest of the newsletter depends on you!

Propagation October 2002

by Shel, W6EL

These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be active during the coming month.



Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 150, corresponding to a sunspot number of 101, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed.

Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

This month's predictions are all for the day of the ARRL CW DX contest, 02/15/03.

6Y Jamaica -
Beam 103 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 1139/2305
80: 0130-1130.
40: 0100-1230.
20: 1400-0330.
15: 1530-0030.
10: 1700-2230.

D4 Cape Verde -
Beam 74 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 0805/1935
80: 0400-0730.
40: 0200-0800.
20: 2330-0530.
15: 1430-0130.
10: 1600-2330.

HS (E2) Thailand -
Beam 314 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 2342/1118

40: 1200-1430.
20: 1430-1630.
15: 1700-1930.
10: 0000-0130.

LY Lithuania -
Beam 20 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 0553/1523
80: 0400-0430.
40: 0200-0600.
20: 1430-1600.
15: 1600-1730.

HI Dominican Rep. -
Beam 97 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 1111/2237
80: 0300-1100.
40: 0100-1200.
20: 2130-0600.
15: 1500-0030.
10: 1630-2230.

PJ7 Sint Maarten -
Beam 94 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 1043/2210
80: 0400-1000.
40: 0200-1030.
20: 2300-1030 and around 1230.
15: 1430-0030.
10: 1600-2230.

S2 Bangladesh -
Beam 331 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 0035/1149
40: 1230-1430.
20: 1500-1630. Long path 0030-0130.
15: 0030-0300.

V3 Belize - Beam 114 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 1224/2352
80: 0200-0230 and 0400-1130.
40: 0230-1230.
20: 0000-1400.
15: 1400-0230.
10: 1500-0100.

VP9 Bermuda -
Beam 77 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 1106/2201
80: 0300-1100.
40: 0100-1200.
20: 1330-1600 and 2020-0130.
15: 1530-2300.
10: 1700-2030.

"Logbook of the World" is coming soon!

The ARRL DX Desk announced the long-anticipated "Logbook of the World" (LoTW)--the secure electronic contact-confirmation system--is undergoing limited alpha testing and will move to beta testing soon.

LoTW will provide a means to qualify for awards such as DXCC or WAS without having hard-copy QSL cards.

The completed software will include a good package that will be given to logging program developers to incorporate into their products.

Project Leader Wayne Mills, N7NG, says LoTW won't spell the end of QSL cards. Instead, he says, it will provide an avenue for increased speed and accuracy for hams chasing awards, as well as remove some chances for human error that can occur in the traditional process.

Wayne emphasized that. "We're not replacing the whole paper QSL scheme with Logbook of the World."

Unlike electronic QSLing systems now in use, LoTW is not set up to exchange QSL "cards" via the Internet. The main idea is that ARRL will maintain a secure log database that will be constantly updated by DXers, contestants, DXpeditions and thousands of individual amateurs.

Registering and uploading electronic logs cost nothing; the only time a user will incur a charge is when applying accumulated contact credits toward an award.

WA6BOB

I sought an interest in electronics at the age of ten, 1957, when I converted a TV to act as a monaural amplifier for my phonograph. I also expanded the coverage of an old Troy AM Tube radio to receive the police stations transmissions above broadcast frequencies and under the 160-meter band.

My father was an Agent with the FBI, Los Angeles, and I was intrigued with what the agents had to say about surveillances as their frequencies were in the vhf band.



This lead to home brew converters and soon the use of decommissioned fm transceivers. Henceforth I developed an interest into SWLing.

In 1966 I obtained my Technician license and less than a year later my Advanced.

The interest in v/uhf has been with me since then as well as the low bands involving DX and Contesting. I also was active for many years in the MARS and RACES programs and still handle a written traffic from the NTS.

In the mid Seventies I joined the NCCC and was active also with the NCDXC in contests and traffic for DXpeditions. My station activity in the EBAY section was single and multi entries. I have achieved many awards in contesting through the years beginning with RTTY, SSB and CW. RTTY has been continuous since 1966 and for the last twelve years CW has been nearly my exclusive mode.

The XYL obtained her Extra in High School and is still currently licensed, WB6FFE. I finally obtained my Extra and have enjoyed the full spectrum of the amateur bands, as I was never really in favor of the incentive licensing program when it formed in the sixties. My how times and opinions have changed.

I am active in almost all CW and RTTY contests as well as hunt and peck for DX in any mode. I do enjoy long QSO's



after contests and during the week in the evenings. My favorite CW frequencies are 7030, 14.050 and 14.088 with RTTY.

With the interface of laptop computers and contesting software, the operation, logging, and elimination of dupes has bettered my previous scores in contests year after year and eased the sorting of DX for DXCC endorsements.

I have a moderate station today that can be viewed from my web site, but only suffice with a 5BTV vertical and a dipole for 160 meters, the Top Band.

I enjoy the repair and rebuilding of old tube equipment, as I have added to my station some of the older equipment I used in the sixties. Two full Collins S lines, Collins KWM2-A, Collins 30S-1 Amplifier, which has served me well for nearly 30 years, Hallicrafters HT-32, Swan 500C, as well as the latest equipment of which consists a Kenwood TS-870, Yaesu FT-847, Norcal QRP xcvrs, and a QRO All band Amplifier with QSK for CW.

My career for thirty-five years has

been in Electrical and Mechanical engineering as I am currently employed with a very well disciplined company. My home lab consists of very reliable service and test equipment, which make up my electronics hobby shop where I tinker with radio repair and build home brew projects and QRP gear.

Member: ARRL life, SCDXC, SCCC, Fists, QCWA, SOWP, GACW, Ten-X, CCA

Achievements:

DXCC current, and applying for single modes, WAS CW-RTTY-SSB, WAZ.

Some recent contests:

CQWW RTTY 1st W6 LP, IARU 1st CW LAX, 2001 CQP 1st CW LAX, IDRA 1st 6th Call RTTY, 1980 ARRL IDXC 1st S.O. EBAY, 1998 ANARTS S.O. 1st W6 RTTY

Amateur Radio Clubs and other organizations:

1968 Palisades Amateur Radio Club

1968 San Fernando Valley Radio Club

1968 Los Angeles County Races - K6CPT

1968 Army Mars: ACM6BOB - AAR9JV

1969 Cactus Radio

1969 Novice license course taught at Roxbury Park, Beverly Hills

1970 This is Ham Radio / The Wide World of Amateur Radio - Dave Bell

W6AQ

1974 Alameda County RACES: Donated % Serviced Repeaters

WR6ALA, WR6AKZ, WA6MGM

1976 Northern California Contest Club

1994 Bobcat Radio Club

2002 SCDXC, SCCC, ARRL VE.

I mentioned my XYL has a ticket also. Sharlene is a professor of engineering at CSUN. She was also in the movie that Dave Bell had produced in the summer of 1970.

I don't remember how we got involved but it was fun to be filmed and also involve other young friends at that time in our youth that were also licensed as well as those seeking their tickets.

Sharlene had a couple of appearances on a KTLA Morning show in the 70's with the explanation of Ham Radio with W5CWQ and her involvement with the West Coast Amateur Radio Service. She then ventured into Electrical Engineering from UCLA and has hence professed at CSUN in EE for the past 22 years or so.

This last summer I was involved with the aiding of 30 or more boy scouts for the field day operation in Ojai, SB Section, with the Bobcat Radio Club, KE6RC and a scoutmaster, K6DBH, who organized the scouts for their radio badges. It was a joy to see young ones at it with a very deep interest as well as one of their parents going for a ticket also.

73 John...aka...Bob...WA6BOB

Dues

If you have not paid your 2003 dues this will be the last newsletter you will receive. To continue membership send your dues to Paul, N6AV. His address is:
2986 Haddington Drive,
Los Angeles CA 90064

"SPARKS—NO MORE"

How many of you remember the USN/USCG RM (Radiomen) Rate? You know, those radio operators that could work CW at 30 WPM, typing on a mill (manual typewriter) drink coffee, and carry on a conversation with you at the same time. I remember visiting the old USCG NMC Radio Station on the top of San Bruno Mountain when based at San Francisco Intl Airport before NMC moved to Pt. Reyes and seeing them in action. It was a couple of years ago that the Coast Guard retired it's last CW key on active duty. RM's were no longer required to know Morse code. Now the RM rate is phasing out completely. They haven't been called RM's for awhile, the new name is Telecommunications Specialist but they still wore the Sparks on their arm like a RM. But now the Sparks insignia is also being retired.

Here is a write up from an unofficial Coast Guard site:

Telecommunications Specialist "A" School Class 06-03 is the last class to go through TC training at Training Center Petaluma, CA. The Telecommunications Specialist rating will soon be incorporated into either the Information System Technician (IT) or Operations System Specialist (OS) ratings. Many of us remember the old Radioman (RM) rating - long known as "Sparks". Not only are we witnessing the passing of the TC rating but also the passing of the "sparks" rating designator.

These men and women will be the last people to wear "sparks" on their arm.

We will follow this class through their training period. Each week we will post photos of their progress. You can see more at:

<http://www.fredspace.org/photo/tc/>

Sent to us by K6ACZ, Alan Zack

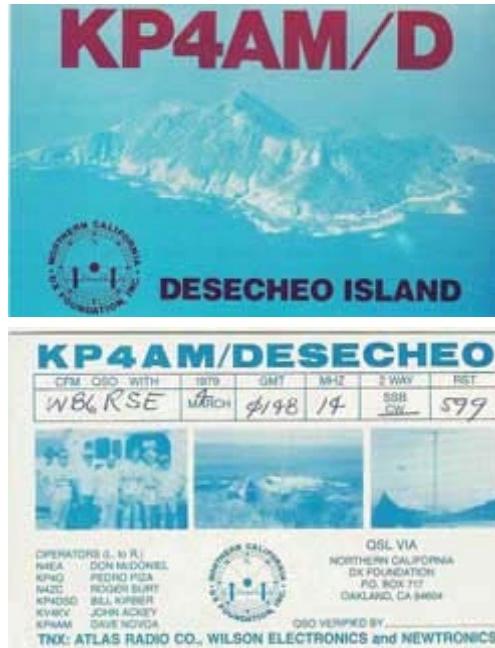


Wanderings

— thoughts from the pen of WB6RSE

I see a video on Desecheo was planned for the January meeting. Too bad we ran a bit late cause I have a "remembrance" of that wee bit of terra firma.

DESECHEO in the Caribbean, an all time new one for me, was scheduled to come on the air in March of 1979. At least that's what WA6AUD, editor of the West Coast DX Bulletin would have you believe — and Cass was seldom wrong. My station was rather modest then: a small amplifier and a Hustler 4BTB vertical on the roof. I had a 15m two element delta loop but just at garage height. No beam for 20 or 10. I guessed my chances at working them on 20m to be anywhere from slim to none. It was late on a Friday afternoon, March 3, 1979. The clock struck 0000 Zulu March 4th and the ARRL DX Phone contest was



in full swing. Might this work to my advantage? The exact time that KP4AM/D was due to come up was unknown. Speculation was that they'd start on 20m. But wait — an all time new one wasn't likely to open up in the contest, would they? Wouldn't that just invite more "insurance" Qs after the contest? The "deserving" throng had hit the phone bands with a vengeance, focusing on Qs not wanting to "waste" valuable contest time just listening for a new one that could appear at any second or not for another day or two.

I had no desire nor delusions about racking up anything resembling a big score in the contest — and, after all, the contest was just phone, not CW! I was stalking a "new one"! So I kept tuning the low end of 20m occasionally listening to the cacophony up on phone and not

feeling that I was missing anything. I kept tuning from the bottom end to about 14025. Around 0145Z, near 14020, I noticed a carrier I hadn't heard before. I could hear, in my mind's "eye", the op tuning the plate control for a dip (remember those!?) and then the load control to bring the power up. This went on for a minute or two. I don't think he signed just then but when the lull in his tuning was just long enough, I dropped my call in. Then I heard: "WB6RSE 599." I sent the same with a TU added and then came: "73 de KP4AM/D up." And then all hell broke loose. I guess not everyone was in the phone contest after all. For once, I was in the right spot at the right time!

Over the next several days, I managed to work them on "all bands 80m through 10m" (no WARC in those days) but that first Q was the only one on 20m.

A few years later I worked KP4AM while he was at his home QTH. I asked him to check the log. He confirmed that I was actually THE first QSO with Desecheo —March 4, 1979 at 0148Z — as the scan shows. My 15 seconds of fame.....

73, Steve WB6RSE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, New or Renewal

Return to club treasurer: Paul Lawrence, 2986 Haddington Drive Los Angeles CA 90064

CALL _____ NAME _____ DATE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

HOME TELEPHONE (____) ____ - ____ WORK TELEPHONE (____) ____ - ____

SCDXC Dues are \$18.00 per year, make checks payable to SCDXC

MS-DOS Is Dead. Now What?

If you or someone you know are still using a computer running any flavor of MSDOS

6.22 or earlier, or Windows 95, or Windows 3.11 or earlier, you have a problem. Microsoft has decreed that each of these products has reached its end of life and will no longer be supported in any way after 31 December 2002.

This is a real concern for many amateurs who have long run their older computers in their shacks to do logging, packet, PSK-31, and other tasks that do not require the horsepower of today's latest and greatest machines. Many contestants who still swear by DOS based contest logging programs like CT 9.x and earlier also have a real worry, since the lack of support means no help in getting printer or video drivers to work, and implies that existing patches, fixes, technical notes, and other resources that had been available on Microsoft's web site will be removed.

The "DOS Compatibility Box" that permitted many older MS-DOS programs to run within Windows 9x, ME, NT, or 2000 has undergone changes for Windows XP. There have been many complaints that XP "breaks" these programs or requires extensive tweaking in order to make them run in some fashion.

Many amateurs have been turning to one of the many flavors of Linux. However, this does not always help as many applications (especially older ones) may not run well under Linux, and again,

drivers and other software applications are not always available. And IBM seems to have buried OS/2 for good years ago.

The good news is that there is an alternative — and it's free. MS-DOS may be dead, but DR-DOS lives!

DR-DOS was originally developed by Digital Research, and is the direct descendant of Gary Kildall's CP/M & CP/M-86, the first "mass marketed" operating systems for home computers (that was itself the inspiration for QDOS, the original version of MS-DOS 1.0). Now owned by **DeviceLogics** and still in development, DR-DOS 7.03 is available for free download from various sites, including <http://www.drdos.net/download.htm>.

Unlike most versions of MSDOS 6.22 and earlier, DR-DOS 7.0x is fully "Y2K Compliant." And some download versions include the **Personal Netware** add-on for home peer-to-peer networking (DR-DOS was marketed as Novell DOS during the time that Digital Research was a subsidiary of Novell). DR-DOS 8.0 is due out in the Spring of 2003.

You can also learn more at The Official DR-DOS Web Site at: www.drdos.com.

FOR SALE

Power Supplies

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13 Volt**

K6EXO@arrl.net



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e mail KJ6Y@aol.com
<http://members.aol.com/kj6y/skip.html>**

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Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

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